

27. *AMARANTHUS VIRIDIS* (DESF.) A NEW HOST PLANT OF
HADDA BEETLE, *HENOSEPILOCHNA VIGINTIOCTOPUNCTATA*
(FAB.) (COLEOPTERA: COCCINELLIDAE)

The hadda beetle, *Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata* (Fab.) is one of the important species of phytophagous coccinellids causing damage to vegetable crops. It is a serious pest of several solanaceous and cucurbitaceous crops like brinjal, tomato, potato, gourds, melons and cucumbers. The pest has also been recorded on *Solanum nigrum* Linn., *S. xanthocarpum* Schard; *Datura indica* Linn. and *Withania somnifera* (Link).

During the 3rd week of August, 1983 *Chaulai* plants (*Amaranthus viridis*) which grew near *Solanum nigrum* plants were found to be infested by the hadda beetle at village

Jangpur in district Ludhiana (Punjab). The leaves of *A. viridis* had characteristic feeding injury and both the grubs and the pupae were found on the leaves. The grubs of this beetle were brought in the laboratory and reared at room temperature, on leaves of *A. viridis* confined in glass jars (10 × 15 cm). The adults emerged successfully in a fortnight. *A. viridis* seems to be a new host plant of *H. vigintioctopunctata*.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,
PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY,
LUDHIANA-141 004,
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D. NARANG
M. RAMZAN

28. NEW RECORD OF *EYLAI*S SP. AND *ARRENURUS* SP. OF MITES
PARASITIZING THE DAMSEL FLY

(With a text-figure)

Parasitic mites are of considerable economic importance and their larval stages are usually parasitic also. Their host range extends from insects to mammals. During the course of a survey of the aquatic fauna of the ponds of Saharanpur region, I came across two new parasitic mites parasitizing the damsel flies (Odonata — Zygoptera — Megapodegridae). The first mite is a species of genus *Eylais* (Acarina — Eylaidae) and the second of the genus *Arrenurus* (Acarina — Arrenuridae). The larvae of *Eylais* sp. are dark green in

colour and those of *Arrenurus* sp. are bright red. Larvae of both the species of mite infest the wing axillaries, ventral part of the thorax and neck region of the host. Maximum number of mite larvae have been found near the wing articulation points of fore and hind wings (Fig. 1). The data of the infestation are presented in the Table.

Maximum number of mites recorded on a single damsel fly was 25 and minimum 1. Furthermore, percentage of parasitization extends from 13.46 to 27.02. Infested flies are

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

TABLE

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF INFESTED DAMSEL FLIES AND PERCENTAGE OF PARASITIZATION.

Date of the survey	No. of damsel flies caught	No. of infested flies	Part of infestation	Total No. of mites	Percentage of infestation
2nd July, 1980	40	6	W+S	30	15.00
16th Aug., 1980	35	5	W+S	31	14.28
12th Sept., 1980	52	7	W+N	28	13.46
15th July, 1981	38	8	W+N	32	21.05
4th Aug., 1981	42	11	S+W	49	26.19
5th Oct., 1981	29	4	W	12	13.79
17th July, 1982	44	8	D+W	39	18.18
21st Aug., 1982	28	5	N+W	27	17.85
2nd Sept., 1982	37	10	S+N	31	27.02

W — Wing bases, S — Sternites, N — Neck, D — Dorsum.

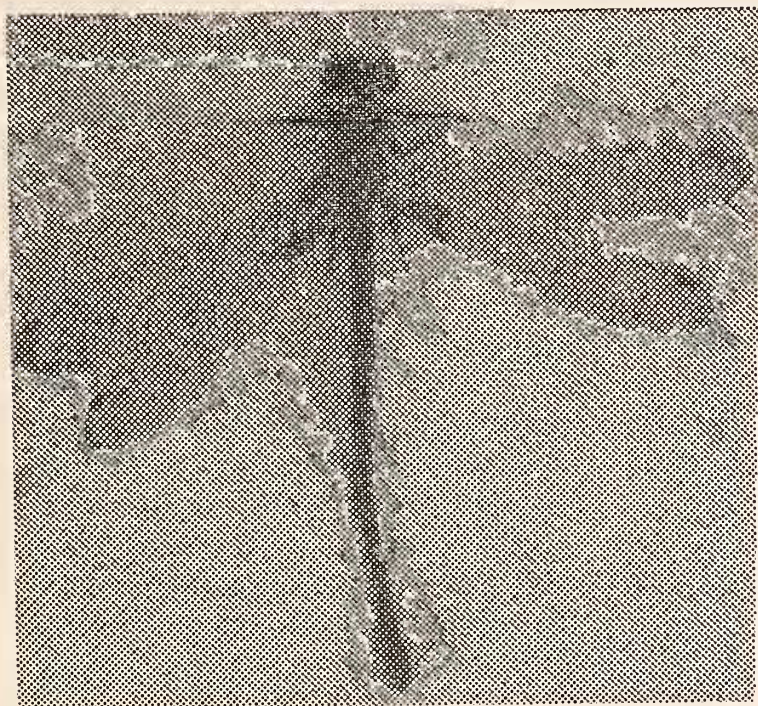


Fig. 1. Photograph of damsel fly showing the parasitization of *Eylais* sp. of mite at the wing bases.

available only during the rainy season in this locality, i.e., July to September. The time also coincides with the breeding season of both the mites and the damsel flies. Adults of both the species of mites have been collected from the bottom of six ponds situated at a distance from Saharanpur. Two infested flies were collected sitting on the wall of my house below a fluorescent tube (40 w) at night. Earlier, *Arrenurus* sp. have been reported attached to mosquito larvae and pupae (Roy and Brown 1970). Damsel fly is a new host record for both the mite species.

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DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
M. S. COLLEGE,
SAHARANPUR 247 001,
U.P.,
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S. C. DHIMAN

REFERENCE

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